Death ride on Air India Airbus

616. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express, Bombay of the 30th September, 1989, captioned "Death ride on Air India Airbus" ;

(b) whether Government have ordered any enquiry into the incident;

(c) if so, what are the details of the report of the said enquiry and what action has been taken so far ; and

(d) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The incident was enquired into by the Controller of Airworthiness, Civil Aviation Department who found that the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer was blameworthy for perfunctory inspection resulting in the damage to the main landing gear axle of aircraft. The AME concerned has been punished by the competent authority. He was not posted to Hong Kong but sent for training. This snag could not have caused risk of life to the passengers.

Recruitment in Air India

617. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that out of State candidates are not recruited by Air India in certain categories ;

(b) if so, whether Government approve of such a policy in the public sector ;

(c) whether the Air India authorities have received any representation alleging discrimination in this behalf ; and

(d) if so, whit are details of the policy and Air India's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a), (b) and (d) Air India recruits all categories of officers like Personnel Officers, Assistant Station Superintendents, Jr. Technical Officers, Engineers, Medical Officers and Co-Pilots on an all India basis. Certain non-officer categories like Aircraft Technicians, Asstt. Flight Pursers and Airhostesses are also recruited on an all India basis. Certain other non-officer categories like Clerks, Typists, Stenographers, Traffic Assistants etc. are recruited through the on-line stations where the demand for the post exists. In such cases, these posts are notified to the Employment Exchange in the concerned State as well as to the various SC/ST, Ex-Servicemen Organisations and advertised in the local press. Recruitment procedures for the posts taken into account the instructions issued by Central and State Governments.

(c) One complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of domicile had been received from a candidates who subsequently filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court.

Reduction in Air Fare from Trivandrum to Gulf Countries

618. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the air fare between Trivandrum and Gulf countries in direct flights which do not touch Bombay ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) whether more flights are proposed to be introduced between Trivandrum/Calicut and Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) and (b) With the introduction of new currency system with effect from 1-7-1989, the Trivandrum-Dubai fare has been specified at Rs. 4,454/-. Under the old system this would have gone upto Rs. 5,327/- and would have varied with exchange rate.

Discontinuation of flight from Delhi to Trivandrum via Cochin

619. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have discontinued the flights from New Delhi to Trivandrum via Cochin ; and

(b) whether it is proposed to reschedule ICs 467/468 to operate between New Delhi-Goa-Calicut-Cochin?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Progress in Tehri Dam Project

620. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Comission has duly sanctioned Tehri Dam Project now being undertaken by the Uttar Pradesh Government ;

(b) if so, what is the present stage of construction of the Dam and what will be approximate cost on completion ;

(c) whether there is any controversy over the compensation to be paid to the displaceed persons ; and

(d) whether Government have cleared the project from the point of view of environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) The Planning Commission had approved in June, 1972, the Tehri Dam Project, with installed capacity of 600 MW, for being executed as a State project. Subsequently, in November, 1986, it was decided to implement the Tehri Hydro Power Complex (2400MW) as a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Infrastructural works, construction of four diversion tunnels, and approach adits to the underground Power House cavern have been completed ; the river was diverted in November, 1989 through the Right Bank Diversion Tunnels. Excavation of four Head Race Tunnels is completed and lining work is in progress. The clearance of river bed for Coffer Dam foundation has been in progress. The estimated cost of construction of Tehri Dam Project with an installed generating capacity of 1000 MW (Stage-I of the Complex) is Rs. 1473 crores.

(c) Compensation package for the oustees has been divised by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and all the affected families are being paid compensation accordingly. No controversy over the compensation paid to the displaced persons has been reported by the State Government.

(d) The Government cleared the project in November, 1986 after thorough assessment of the impact of the project on environment and after it was found that the adverse